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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/613,512	07/03/2003	Peter Sheehan	09623C-045000US	4793
20350	7590	06/06/2006		
TOWNSEND AND TOWNSEND AND CREW, LLP TWO EMBARCADERO CENTER EIGHTH FLOOR SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94111-3834				EXAMINER DANG, HUNG Q
				ART UNIT 2612 PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 06/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application N .	Applicant(s)	
	10/613,512	SHEEHAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Hung Q. Dang	2635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 March 2006.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 02 January 2004 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to application's amendment dated 3/13/2006.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 3/13/2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant's argument regarding claim 1 on page 4 is not persuasive. Applicant argues that if "one were to add the functionality of Asari and Smith to Batra, one would use the wireless connection shown in Batra, which is similar to Asari- the keyboard or docking station communicates with the computer receiver, there is no suggestion of separate wireless or other connection from a number pad and calculator would not change the communication link through the docking station shown in Batra, nor suggest changing it to one of skill in the art." Examiner disagrees with applicant. Applicant's argument is backward from the way examiner presents the rejection of claim 1. The examiner uses the Asari et al. reference as the main reference to show a wireless mouse and a wireless keyboard (both numeric and alphanumeric); and examiner uses the Batra et al. reference to show that the numeric keypad and the alphanumeric keypad have been conventionally made separable, if desired. Therefore, applicant's argument is not persuasive.

Applicant's argument regarding claim 3 on pages 4-5 is not persuasive. Applicant argues that the office action relies on "conventionality" regarding the idea of having navigation buttons without citing any reference. Batra et al. does show the

conventionality of having navigation buttons on the numeric keypad (Figure 6, navigation buttons 232 are indeed on the numeric keypad 14).

Application's argument regarding claims 4 and 8 on page 5 is not persuasive.

The idea of having a wireless numeric keypad and a separate alphanumeric keypad are already addressed in claim 1. The examiner uses the Chen reference to show the idea of incorporating media buttons on a keyboard.

Note:

- In the previous office action, the examiner mistakenly omitted the Batra et al. reference in the header of the claims rejection. The examiner changes the ground of rejections of claims 4-10 to correct the typographical error

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 and in further view of Batra et al U.S. Patent 6,317,061.

Regarding claim 1, Asari et al. teaches a computer interface system comprising:

a hub (Figure 1, unit 2) connected to said computer (Figure 1, unit 3) and configured to communicate wirelessly with at least two peripheral devices; a wireless mouse (Figure 1, unit M) for wirelessly communicating with said hub; a wireless keyboard (Figure 1, unit 12) for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless keyboard having an alphanumeric keyboard but no separate number pad; and a wireless numeric keyboard (already included in keyboard 12) for wirelessly communicating with said hub, said wireless numeric keyboard including a number pad.

However, Asari et al. does not teach a separate wireless numeric keyboard having a display.

Smith et al., in the same field of endeavor, teaches a keyboard having a numerical key section (See Figure 3, the right most section of the drawing), which has a display (Figure 3, unit 25) for displaying number when said numeric key section is set in calculator mode. Even though, neither Asari et al. nor Smith et al. teach a **separate** numeric keypad, however, one skilled in the art would recognize that separately or integrally equipping a numeric keypad with a alphabetical keyboard can easily derived to suit user's preference and convenience, as evidenced by Batra et al. (Figure 4B, keyboards 12 and 14 can be separately or integrally put together).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide a separate numeric keypad having a display to the computer system disclosed by Asari et al., as evidenced by Smith et al. and Batra et al., in order to suit the preference of the user, as already explained above.

R garding claim 2, the numeric keyboard section disclosed by Smith also includes two modes of operation, a first mode as a number pad and a second mode as a calculator (Figure 3, unit 26a indicates operational mode).

Regarding claim 3, even though neither Asari et al. nor Smith et al. specifically mention the navigation function of said numeric keyboard (such as buttons 4, 8, 6, 2 are directional arrows for left, up, right, and down, respectively), however, such navigation function has been conventionally equipped in keyboards. Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide such navigation function to the keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al.

Regarding claim 7, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. does not teach said hub being connected to a USB port of said computer. However, one skilled in the art would recognize that computers have been conventionally equipped with USB port(s) for connecting external devices. Therefore, by conventionality, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to provide a connection between the hub and the computer disclosed by Asari et al. by a USB port.

5. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 and Batra et al. U.S. Patent 6,317,061 and in further view of applicant's prior art admission.

Regarding claim 6, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. and Batra et al. teaches a system as claimed in claim 6, except wherein said wireless mouse, wireless keyboard all communicate using **Blu to th technology** with said hub.

Applicant's prior admission on page 1 paragraph [0003] discloses the usage of Bluetooth technology between keyboard/mouse and a wireless hub by Microsoft.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide Bluetooth wireless communication between the wireless mouse/keyboard disclosed by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. and Batra et al., as evidenced by applicant's prior art admission, in order to wirelessly establish communication between said mouse/keyboard and hub.

6. Claims 4, 5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 and Batra et al. U.S. Patent 6,317,061 and in further view of Chen US 2002/0190955.

Regarding claims 4, 5, 8 and 9, Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. and Batra et al. teaches a system as claimed in claim 4, except a media button on one of said wireless keyboards configured to launch a media application.

Chen, in the same field of endeavor, teaches a keyboard, which includes media button(s) (See figure 3, the keys located on the top of the keyboard are hot keys, which are media keys for playing music, volume control) configured for launching a media application.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide media button(s) (or hot keys) to the keyboard disclosed

by Asari et al. in view of Smith et al. and Batra et al., as evidenced by Chen, in order to execute special functions.

7. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Asari et al. U.S. Patent 6,031,470 in view of Smith et al. U.S. Patent 6,114,977 and Batra et al. U.S. Patent 6,317,061 and Chen US 2002/0190955 and in further view of applicant's prior art admission.

Claim 10 is rejected for the same reasons as the combination of claims 1 and 4-6).

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

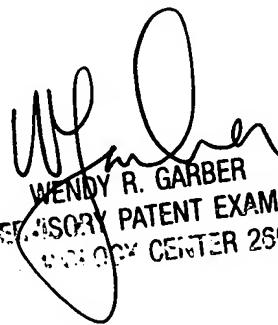
9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hung Q. Dang whose telephone number is (571) 272-3069. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:30AM-6PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wendy Garber can be reached on (571) 272-7308. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Hung Q. Dang
5/26/2006
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